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BIRDS COLLECTED DURING THE WHITNEY SOUTH SEA EXPEDITION. XLIII[1]

NOTES ON NEW GUINEA BIRDS. VII

By Ernst Mayr

In order to be able to include the following forms in my forthcoming "List of New Guinea Birds," I herewith publish them in a separate paper. My revisions of New Guinea genera will be continued in the next installment of this series.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Machaerhamphus alcinus papuanus, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 531595, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Rothschild coll.); ♂ ad.; Kumusi River, eastern New Guinea, July 14, 1907; A. S. Meek.

Similar to *alcinus*, but slightly smaller and with a less distinct crest; a white bar across the hind-neck forms a nuchal collar; the white on the throat seems to be less extended toward the breast, but there is considerably more white on the lower abdomen.

Wing, 338; tail, 167; tarsus, 56; culmen from cere, 17.

RANGE.—Eastern New Guinea in the north to the Kumusi River, in the south to the Port Moresby district.

The difference between the New Guinea and the Malayan bird was known to Ramsay and Gurney (Ibis, 1882, p. 455), more than fifty years ago. (See also Rothschild and Hartert, 1912, Novit. Zool., p. 190.)

PSITTACIDAE

The western races of *Charmosyna placentis*

In the Orn. Pap. Mol., vol. 1 (1880), p. 310, Salvadori states that the birds usually grouped under the name *placentis* can be divided into five races. He repeats this assertion twenty-five years later (Ibis, 1905, p. 423), but it was not until 1928 that Kinnear formally described one of these races (*intensior*, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 48, p. 84.—Batjan). A renewed study of the species with the help of the material of the American Museum and the Rothschild collection shows that four of the races characterized by Salvadori are certainly valid, although the distinctness of the Aru Is. birds from the Kei Is. population could not be confirmed.

Charmosyna placentis ornata, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 618307, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Rothschild coll.); ♂ ad.; Misol Island; January 29, 1900; H. Kühn coll.

Similar to *placentis* but rump spot very much larger and of a deep ultramarine blue; crown very yellowish; red on chin and upper throat much more extensive; reddish-yellow cone-shaped area on the tip of the central tail-feather narrow; size slightly larger. Wing, ♂ ad. 91–95; tail, 70–77.

RANGE.—Western Papuan Islands (Gebe, Waigeu, Batanta, Salawati and Misol) and Vogelkop, northwestern New Guinea.

This race has been confused in the past with typical *placentis* which is found in Goramlaut, Southeast Islands, Kei Islands, Aru Islands and south New Guinea (Utanata River to Fly River). The type locality, Utanata River, is near the border of the ranges of *ornata* and *placentis* and the original description as well as the plate (Temm., Pl. Col., 553) are not very revealing in regard to the above mentioned subspecific characters. Dr. G. C. A. Junge, however, informed me that the only adult

[1] Previous papers in this series comprise American Museum Novitates, Nos. 115, 124, 149, 322, 337, 350, 356, 364, 365, 370, 419, 469, 486, 488, 489, 502, 504, 516, 520, 522, 531, 590, 609, 628, 651, 665, 666, 709, 714, 820, 828, 912, 915, 933, 939, 947, 977, 986, 1006, 1007, 1056, and 1057.

male among the three cotypes agreed better with Kei Islands than with Vogelkop specimens.

Charmosyna placentis occidentalis, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 618302, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Rothschild coll.); Amblau Island, south of Buru, Moluccas; Makatita-Doherty coll.

MALE.—Differs from *intensior* by the yellowish-green, not dark green under parts; by the more yellowish crown spot and by the much smaller blue spot on the trump; differs from *ornata* by the much smaller rump spot, by the less yellowish crown spot, by the broader yellow bar across the underside of the wing, and by the broader and more extensive yellowish-red area on the tips of the tail-feathers.

The female is similar to that of *ornata* but differs by the just mentioned characters of rump, wing and tail.

Wing, ♂ 94, ♀ 92; tail, ♂ 72+, ♀ 73.

A pair from Wahai, Seran, agrees well with the Buru pair, except that the blue spot on the rump is larger and the size smaller (wing, ♂ 87+, ♀ 88).

RANGE.—Southern Moluccas (Amblau, Seran and Ambon).

Several undescribed forms of *Micropsitta bruijnii* must be described in order to give a more correct picture of the species as a whole and of the distribution of the nominate race.

Micropsitta bruijnii pileata, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 619039, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Mt. Hoale, Seran, southern Moluccas; July 15, 1911; E. Stresemann coll.

Similar to *bruijnii*, but pileum of a deeper brownish-red coloration; this crown spot further extended on the nape, thereby narrowing the blue nuchal collar.

Wing, ♂ 67–70.

RANGE.—Seran and Buru, southern Moluccas. Three males compared with 35 males of the typical race.

Micropsitta bruijnii rosea, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 219117, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Kulambangra Island, Solomon Islands; October 11, 1927; R. H. Beck (Whitney South Sea Expedition).

Differs from *bruijnii* by the much brighter and more pinkish cheeks and chin region and by the clear reddish-pink crown, which is in *bruijnii* pale fuscous-ochraceous with a slight pinkish wash. There is no conspicuous difference in the coloration of the under parts, although the reds and greens seem to be deeper and with less of a yellowish tinge.

Wing (♂)—Kulambangra, 67, 67, 68, 68; Guadalcanar, 68, 69, 70.

RANGE.—Kulambangra and Guadalcanar, Solomon Islands.

The three Guadalcanar birds average larger and have the crown slightly more yellowish than the Kulambangra specimens; the difference is, however, too slight for separation.

This high mountain species was unknown in the Solomon Islands before the work of the Whitney Expedition.

Micropsitta bruijnii brevis, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 221571, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands; April 25, 1928; H. Hamlin (Whitney South Sea Expedition).

Very similar to *rosea*, but much smaller.

Wing, ♂ 64, 65, against 67–70 in *rosea*.

RANGE.—Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands.

Micropsitta pusio harterti, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 329472, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Fergusson Island, D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago; January 2, 1929; Hannibal Hamlin (Whitney South Sea Expedition).

Similar to *Micropsitta pusio pusio* Sclater, but with less yellow on the underside; throat strongly washed with bluish; crown and sides of head less brightly colored; similar to *Micropsitta pusio stresemanni* Hartert, but smaller and on the underside with still less yellow.

Wing, males: 62, 62, 62.5, 63, 64; females: 58, 61, 62 mm.

RANGE.—Fergusson Island, D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago.

Named in honor of Dr. Ernst Hartert who was the first to call attention to this distinct form.[1] Seven additional specimens collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition confirm his conclusions. A specimen from Milne Bay and one from Kubuna approach the new form.

SYLVIIDAE

Gerygone chrysogaster leucothorax, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 202033, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Wanggar, head of Geelvink Bay; November 1, 1931; Georg Stein coll.

[1] 1926, Novit. Zool., 33, p. 130.

Upper parts brownish citrine, more brownish than in *dohertyi*, particularly on the crown, but brighter and not as brownish as in *chrysogaster;* superciliary stripe and feathers on eyelid buffy, not white as in *chrysogaster;* flanks, crissum and under tail-coverts pale yellow, paler than in *chrysogaster*, but as sharply defined; no or only a very slight indication of pale edging on the upper wing-coverts; lower mandible yellowish horn colored as in *notata* and *dohertyi*.

RANGE.—Head of Geelvink Bay.

This race is highly interesting because it is such a perfect link between the *neglecta* and *chrysogaster* groups of this species (see Meise, 1931, Novit. Zool., 36, p. 341). The principal characters of this form, its white throat and breast, as compared with *dohertyi*, were already noted by Hartert and Paludan (1936, Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin, 21, p. 216) who also record the measurements of the typical series.

PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Pachycephala griseiceps gagiensis, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 658525, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Rothschild coll.); ♀ ad.; Gagi Island, west of Waigeu; March 5, 1863; Bernstein coll.

Similar to *waigeuensis*, but much larger; wing, 88 and higher, as against 77–86 in *waigeuensis;* similar in size to *miosnomensis* but differing from it as *waigeuensis* differs from *jobiensis;* crown not as clearly gray; breast darker; yellow of under parts darker.

RANGE.—Gagi Island.

The characters of the Gagi population have been known for a long time. I have to name this race, in preparation of my checklist, because Gagi birds cannot be included in any of the other races of this species.

CRACTICIDAE

Cracticus cassicus hercules, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 329975, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Kaileuna Island, Trobriand Islands; November 2, 1928; H. Hamlin (Whitney South Sea Expedition).

Similar to *cassicus*, but much larger.

RANGE.—Trobriand Islands (Kiriwina, Kaileuna and Kitava) and D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago (Fergusson and Goodenough).

Birds from the other parts of New Guinea, from Numfor and Biak, from Misol, Salawati, Batanta and the Aru Islands, agree in size with typical Vogelkop birds. Birds from Japen, Waigeu and Gebe, are larger and about intermediate in size between the two races. For geographical reasons they are best referred to typical *cassicus*. Birds from the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago are slightly smaller than typical *hercules* (wing, ♂ ad. 172, 172, 174, 174, 180, ♀ 164, 167, 170; tail, ♂ 134, 134, 135, 139, 141, ♀ 126, 129, 133; bill, ♂ 55, 56, 57, 58, 58, ♀ 49, 52, 52), but are best included in this race.

		WING	BILL	TAIL
Trobriand Islands (*hercules*)	10 ♂ ad.	177–194 (185.5)	55–64 (60.0)	133–148 (139.3)
	8 ♀ ad.	167–183 (177.4)	52–58 (55.5)	124–141 (135.8)
Vogelkop (*cassicus*)	9 ♂ ad.	158–174 (167.2)	50–55 (52.1)	121–132 (127.3)
	3 ♀ ad.	166, 167, 168	48, 49, 50	125, 127, 133